

## PUBLIC BUILDING AT SAINT JOSEPH, MO.

APRIL 12, 1884.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. HOPKINS, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted the following

### REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 5080.]

*The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 5080) to amend an act to provide for the erection of a public building in the city of Saint Joseph, in the State of Missouri, approved August 5, 1882, have duly considered the same, and unanimously recommend that the same do pass.*

Saint Joseph is the central city of the famous Platte purchase. It is beautifully situated on the eastern bank of the Missouri River, nearly equidistant from Kansas City and Council Bluffs. It has a present population of about 50,000 inhabitants, and is the great central point of trade and commerce for Northern Kansas, Southern Nebraska, Southern Iowa, and Northern Missouri.

Like many other cities of the great valley, its growth and increase is constant, rapid, and wonderful. Its wholesale trade is estimated at more than \$60,000,000 annually, nearly half of which is based upon the sale of imported commodities, subject to impost duties.

The receipts of the custom-house from this source must be very large. The receipts from the Saint Joseph post-office for the year ending December 31, 1883, were \$69,838.69. The receipts from the collector of internal revenue at Saint Joseph for the last fiscal year were \$64,745.56, making a grand annual total of \$124,584.25.

The public building in Kansas City, designed when that city was a little over one-half as large as Saint Joseph now is, cost something less than \$300,000, and is found already to be too small for the transaction of the public business; but the bill very properly limits the Secretary of the Treasury in the construction of a public building for the United States in Saint Joseph to the present demands and interests of the Government at that point.

Following the general plan of the building in Kansas City ample room will be provided for the post-office, for the surveyor and collector of the port, for court-rooms, rooms for judges, clerks, marshal, and attorney of the United States.

The public buildings of the State, county, and city indicate somewhat the kind of building that ought to be constructed by the United States. The State lunatic asylum cost over half a million dollars, the county court-house, exclusive of jail and grounds, cost over \$300,000. In Saint Joseph there are nineteen public school buildings and seventy school

rooms, including four commodious buildings for separate colored schools. Photographs of a number of these school buildings accompany this report, and are well worthy of examination. The city expended last year for the maintainance of public schools \$82,628.02. The city building constructed for the use of the city officers, including the ground, is estimated as worth over \$150,000.

Saint Joseph has the best railroad and highway bridge across the Missouri, at a cost of \$1,200,000. Great lines of railway converge at Saint Joseph from every direction, including the Missouri Pacific, the Wabash, the Hannibal and Saint Joe, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, the Saint Joseph and Denver, the Kansas City, Saint Joseph and Council Bluffs, the Saint Joseph and Des Moines, and three other lines into Saint Joseph are now under construction. The city waterworks on the reservoir plan, at a cost of \$750,000 afford a safe and steady power and supply for manufacturing and other purposes. Manufactures have been multiplied, and great improvements are in progress.

